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***Metoeus paradoxus* (L.) (Coleoptera: Rhipiphoridae) in Cambridgeshire.**—During the morning of 11.viii.1992 at Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire (grid ref. TL 243705) while searching trunks of Lombardy poplars *Populus nigra* var. *italica* Moench for aphids and their natural enemies, I found a single female of this distinctive beetle climbing briskly up the bark at a height of about 1.5 m. The swollen, bright yellow abdomen, combined with elytra which have the appearance of being designed for a smaller and slimmer beetle, create a bizarre effect reminiscent of a member of the related Meloidae (oil beetles). *M. paradoxus* is a scarce species (and the only member of the family found in Britain), whose larvae develop in the underground nests of wasps.—I. F. G. McLean, 109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 8TZ.

***Solva marginata* Meig. (Diptera: Xylomyiidae) adults observed at Brampton, Huntingdonshire.**—*Solva marginata* is a handsome fly more frequently reared from larvae found under bark, than seen as adults. Poplars are frequently exploited by larvae, although other deciduous trees are also known to be used. Although there are published notes indicating that occasionally adults can be frequent around old trees or fallen trunks, I had never been fortunate enough to find them until this year. On the evening of 27.vii.1992 I saw a single adult *S. marginata* on the leaf of a Lombardy poplar *Populus nigra* var. *italica* Moench at Grove Lane, Brampton (grid ref. TL 208711). This was the first time that I have seen the species in Brampton. At lunchtime on 5.viii.1992 I again saw an adult *S. marginata* on the trunk and then flitting onto leaves of a tree in the same row. The behaviour of these flies, coupled with the wings being held flat over the abdomen, suggests this species is a mimic of adult Hymenoptera, though the group or species which could be the model is unclear to me.—I. F. G. McLean, 109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 8TZ.

***Myopa testacea* (L.) at an ultraviolet light and *M. tessellatipennis* Mots. (Diptera Conopidae) 3 m up.**—My two encounters with *Myopa* in 1992 owe everything to serendipity. I ran a near ultraviolet 40-W fluorescent lamp to catch moths on 25.v.1992 in my garden at Welwyn, Herts. A female *Myopa testacea* was found sitting on the top egg tray at midnight. The temperature was 14°C.

On 24.iv.1992 I sampled male *Andrena* bees rushing around the tops of flowering blackthorn bushes on the edge of Harmer Green Wood, Welwyn. One of my net samples from 3 m above the ground included a male *Myopa tessellatipennis*. A further hour's sampling and sweeping in the herbage produced no more conopids. The bees were *Andrena haemorrhoa* (F.), *A. pubescens* Ol. and *A. jacobae* Perkins R.C.L. *Lasioglossum* was represented by a single *L. calceatum* (Scop.). *Bombus terrestris* (L.), *B. pascuorum* (Scop.) and *B. lapidarius* (L.) queens were frequent in the grass.—R. W. J. Uffen, 4 Mardley Avenue, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0UD.